



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Aging Committee

February 5, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101**

S.B. No. 706 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS OF ELDERLY ABUSE.

The Department of Public Health would like to provide the following information regarding SB 706. Senate Bill 706 brings about much needed modifications to the elder abuse statutes by adding Emergency Medical Services Providers to the list of Mandated Reporters of Elder Abuse.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers are on the front-lines of medicine and typically see patients in their homes and places of residence. This puts them in a unique position of seeing the results of the various forms of elder abuse. As elder adults may be vulnerable to abuse or neglect, mandating EMS providers to report these potential observations is intuitive.

The Department supports the addition of EMS providers as mandated reporters in this proposal and believe it is a very good step toward modernizing Connecticut's EMS system as well as protecting our patients. Should this bill move forward, the Department respectfully requests changing the language in line 10 to say "any person licensed or certified as an emergency medical services provider pursuant to chapter 384d" to encompass all emergency medical services personnel.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.